Joint Forest Management Programme

† *362. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched Joint Forest Management Programme for conservation and promotion of forests in the country;

(b) if so, whether any targets have also been fixed for the programme; and

(c) if so, the details of the targets and the estimate of the total amount to be spent to achieve those targets?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In accordance with the provisions of the National Forest Policy, 1988, Government of India had issued guidelines to all the state governments in June 1, 1990 for involving village communities in the regeneration and protection of degraded forests lands under the Joint Forest Management (JFM) Programme. After a review of the JFM activities, the Central Government have issued fresh guidelines on 21st February 2002 to further strengthen the JFM programme in the country. No specific targets have been fixed for the programme, as it is a continuing and evolving process. The programme has picked up quite well during the last 10 years and as reported by various State Governments as on 1.1.2000, 10.249 million hectare of forests area is being managed in collaboration with 36,130 JFM Committees in 22 states. Central Government have requested the State Governments to involve the JFM Committees in all the afforestation programmes. Under the Centrally sponsored schemes of the Ministry, an amount of Rs.477.50 crore has been earmarked during the ninth plan period on afforestation activities and JFM is an integral component in the implementation of these schemes.

Merger of Guntakal Railway Division

*365. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been requested to continue Guntakal

† Original notice of (he question was received in Hindi.